

My Guinness World Record

Mt. Aconcagua, January 2023



Tatiana Stupak

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by

Tatiana Stupak

Editor: David Pentecost FBCS CITP

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INTRODUCTION

I am a professional musician, primarily a pianist, and owner of a music school in Cyprus, and I raise money with my music, for charities in Cyprus, which has been my homeland since 2007. In March 2019, a violinist friend in Cyprus wanted to make a video playing in the snow near the top of the highest mountain in Cyprus, Mt Olympus, in the Troodos range; she asked me to accompany her, and I did so, with a portable electronic keyboard.

This gave me the idea to play at the summit of higher mountains, and in July 2019, I joined a group to climb the highest mountain in Europe, Elbrus, (5,642 metres) in the Caucasus Mountains, again with a keyboard. This mountain is known to climbers as one of the Seven Summits – the highest in each of seven continents.

I decided that I would like to try climbing all of these seven summits, playing music on each mountain, and in January 2020 I joined a group to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, in Africa. I had had trouble with the electronics of the keyboard freezing on Mt. Elbrus, so I decided to learn to play and take with me, an ancient Russian stringed instrument, called a gusli, to Kilimanjaro. There, I succeeded in playing it at the summit, at 5,895 metres.

I wondered if this could be a Guinness World Record, but I learned that Kilimanjaro is not high enough for breaking the existing record, which was made in Nepal in 2012 at a height of 6,476 metres.

So I investigated the heights of the Seven Summits, and found that the next highest one which would allow me to try to break the record, would be Mt. Aconcagua, in Argentina, which towers at 6,962 metres. I planned to play the gusli at or near the summit in January 2021, but the Covid epidemic forced me to delay until January 2023.

PREPARATIONS FOR ACONCAGUA

For much-needed mountaineering practice, in September 2022, I climbed to the top of the highest volcano outside Asia, which is Mt. Damavand in Iran, at a height of 5,609 metres. There, I played a classical gusli instrument.

I decided to donate profits from my climb on Mt. Aconcagua to the Cyprus charity called the Theotokos Foundation, which undertakes preventive paediatrics, and provides care for people with multiple disabilities.

I managed to persuade some generous organisations in Cyprus that they would gain considerable media publicity by being associated with the attempt to break a Guinness World Record, and they agreed to sponsor me for my expenses. I also gained the support of Cyprus' Minister for Tourism, saying that I would try, as on previous peaks, to display the flag of Cyprus at the summit of Mt. Aconcagua.

Preparations for the climb began in a Cyprus gym in the autumn of 2022, where I took frequent one-hour lessons from a personal trainer, to build up the strength in my climbing muscles, and to help me to carry a heavy backpack.

On previous climbs I had mostly hired the equipment which I needed for climbing, which was not entirely satisfactory. I bought in Cyprus from a specialist shop, the most accurate Garmin device for measuring altitude and GPS location which I could find, a Fenix 7 watch. Other items I could not obtain in Cyprus, and buying clothes to fit properly on the Internet was not a reliable method, so in December 2022, I travelled to London with my composer friend David Pentecost, who took me to several specialist mountaineering shops, where I managed to buy extreme cold weather equipment, including sleeping bag, anoraks, fleeces, hand and foot warmers, triple climbing boots, crampons, and many other items.

DEPARTURE FOR ARGENTINA, THE CLIMB & CONCERT

I left Larnaka Airport in Cyprus on 1st January 2023, bound for Mendoza in Argentina, travelling via Frankfurt, and São Paulo in Brazil. I had joined a group called the 7 Summits Club, which has bases in Alaska and Moscow, and I did not meet any of my fellow climbers until I arrived in Mendoza, where the office of Aconcagua Vision is situated, an organisation which made the local arrangements for our group's brief stay in Mendoza, and travel to Mt. Aconcagua.

One of the people in the 7 Summits Club group was Andrey Berezin, a very experienced guide, who agreed to be my specialist witness on behalf of Guinness World Records (GWR). It was he who calibrated the Garmin watch in Mendoza and checked the GPS location there. As required by GWR, he locked away the Garmin watch in a box, and did not open it until we reached the site of the concert on Mt. Aconcagua on 16th January 2023.

The days from 3rd January to 16th January were taken up with practice climbing, with a rest day included, in order to acclimatise to the conditions. I was given, (as we all were) a medical check after several days, to satisfy a doctor that I was fit to ascend to the summit, and I was issued with a permit to climb Aconcagua.

The lowest camp was Plaza Confluencia at 3,400 metres. The base camp at Plaza de Mulas was at 4,250 metres, and it was at this camp where several concert posters were displayed, and where I sold 30 concert tickets. Photos were taken of the first 11 climbers buying tickets.

On some of the days, the weather was terrible, with deep snow, strong winds and poor visibility, and we feared that we might not be able to make it to the summit of Aconcagua, but in the end we were lucky, and reached the next camp, Nido de Condores at 5,350 metres, and finally our highest camp, Colera, at about 5,970 metres.

It was from the highest camp on 16th January, that we made our way up, towards the summit, starting at 3 a.m., and at the top, I was photographed holding the flag of Cyprus; my sponsors' flags were also displayed there.

About 250 metres below the summit, there is a resting place, used by climbers after descending from the summit, which provides a degree of shelter near some rocks. We had decided earlier, that this would be the best site to hold the concert.

At the concert site, I gave my camera to a climber who started by filming my specialist witness unlocking the box containing the Garmin watch.

It showed an altitude of 6,701 metres,
and GPS position of S 32°39' 11.61" and W 70° 00' 57.00",

which the guide recorded; the altitude measurement then changed to 6,700 metres, so I suppose that the position of the Garmin instrument must have been on the boundary between 6,700 and 6,701 metres. It was the 6,700 metres height which was seen by three other members of the audience, who agreed to be my other witnesses. I decided to claim the 6,701 figure, when later I would submit my evidence to GWR.

The concert took place between about 5 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. on 16th January 2023 on Mt. Aconcagua.

After filming the Garmin watch, the cameraman continued with the same continuous recording, showing at various times, members of the audience and me, unpacking my gusli and issuing music programmes, after which I began to play my music programme, starting with a rondo by Rebel (1661-1747), arranged by Veselova. After the rondo, I played a Kanaletti minuet, and finally a Handel sonata. The total concert time from the start of the rondo, to the end of the sonata was 17 minutes and 3 seconds.

A second video was also taken by another climber, who focussed only on me, but this film was not required as evidence by GWR.

Later, I received witness statements from three climbers, on forms supplied by GWR. My specialist witness, Andrey Berezin, sent me his statement later.

CELEBRATIONS AFTER THE CLIMB AND CONCERT

Celebrations were held at base camp, where medals and certificates were presented to all who reached the summit of Aconcagua. I was photographed, and a video was made of the presentation to me.

On my return to Cyprus on 23rd January, I was greeted at Larnaka Airport by a small party of friends, and we had a little celebration.

PUBLICITY IN CYPRUS ON RETURNING HOME

Publicity about the record attempt took several forms. A press release was issued to various Cyprus media on my return, and I organised a press conference for 27th January at a Limassol hotel. The Russian newspaper in Cyprus, Vestnik Kipra, published a report on their website. The Cypriot TV company Sigma, interviewed me in Greek on 24th January at their studio in the capital, Nicosia. I was interviewed on Russian Radio Cyprus in Limassol on 25th January. The English language newspaper Cyprus Mail, printed a whole page article on 28th January, and later on their website, and the Greek language newspaper, Phileleftheros, printed a half page report also on 28th January, and on their website. I also sent a report to the Minister of Tourism in Cyprus, whose support had been given to me, and I received a very kind reply. On 2nd February, I was interviewed on Cyprus' Alpha TV station, and later that same day on the Antenna 1 TV station, and following that, on the national broadcaster CyBC's radio station, RIK 1. Recordings of these broadcasts were made, and were uploaded to my YouTube channel. On 3rd February, the Limassol newspaper Ephimerida Lemesos printed a half page report about my concert. None of the above radio and TV interviews were in English, but one in English took place on February 28th on CyBC's radio station RIK 4. Only one press report was in English, in the Cyprus Mail. The Cyprus Russian lifestyle magazine, Stil Gizni, printed an article on page 40 of their issue number 37 (51) in February 2023, and repeated it on their Instagram and Facebook accounts. The newspaper Ephimerida Lemesos printed a second report as a two-page spread on 10th February. Lemesos TV went live on YouTube with their interview with me on 6th February 2023.

After my return to Cyprus I was told of a report filed on the website of 7summitsclub.com by my specialist witness, Andrey Berezin. He reported, with a description, a brief video, and some photos of the climb. This was filed at:


https://7summitsclub.com/news/all/item_15208/?fbclid=I-wAR0HCff264Fo4mUvUaeIM0bA3mvBovlcwWN3XXFSknWYirrrEUWH9NtU4ZY

The Appendix at the end of this book, shows a list of YouTube links relating to my breaking the Guinness World Record, including the TV and radio broadcasts.

WAITING FOR A VERDICT FROM GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

GWR have a long list of items of evidence which had to be very carefully assembled after my return to Cyprus. This took almost a month, because some detailed questions had to be asked of GWR, concerning some points which were not clear.

The first and very important item of evidence which I had to prepare was a cover letter, explaining about the concert, and listing items of proof, to claim that I believed that I had broken the existing record for the Highest Altitude Concert on Land. Equally important, I had to send a letter of credentials about my specialist witness, Andrey Berezin, from his employer, since he was effectively representing GWR at the concert.



I described the equipment used: my gusli musical instrument, the Garmin altimeter/GPS recorder, and the iPhone used to film the concert. I had to prove with photos, that at least ten tickets for the public concert had been printed, advertised and sold, and that a programme of the music had been printed and was distributed to the audience; I sent to GWR a total of 19 photos about the concert and the ascent of Aconcagua. A very important item related to the location and altitude record of 6701 metres: GWR required this data to be sent to them as a .kml file, so I had help from the Limassol Garmin office, to create this file. And of course, the video evidence file of the concert had to be sent to GWR.

I also sent to GWR, videos of the broadcasts which took place on television and radio, both before I left Cyprus and after my return, and copies of Cyprus newspaper and magazine reports.

GWR emailed me on 20th February 2023 to say that my evidence had been received and was being considered, and a week later, they emailed again, to say that I had indeed set a new Guinness World Record, and inviting me to apply for their official certificate! You can see this certificate on the next page.

PHOTOGRAPHS

This book is essentially a photographic record of my adventure to South America. On the following pages you will see more than 160 mountaineering and concert photographs. But I also had the opportunity to take a short holiday, to visit the towns of Mendoza and Buenos Aires, so I have also included some of my holiday photos.

*Tatiana Stupak
April 2023*



CERTIFICATE

**The highest altitude concert
on land is 6,701 m
(21,984 ft), achieved by
Tatiana Stupak
on Mt. Aconcagua, Argentina,
on 16 January 2023.**

OFFICIALLY AMAZING™



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At the summit of Mt.Aconcagua, 16th January 2023





Russian Radio, Cyprus



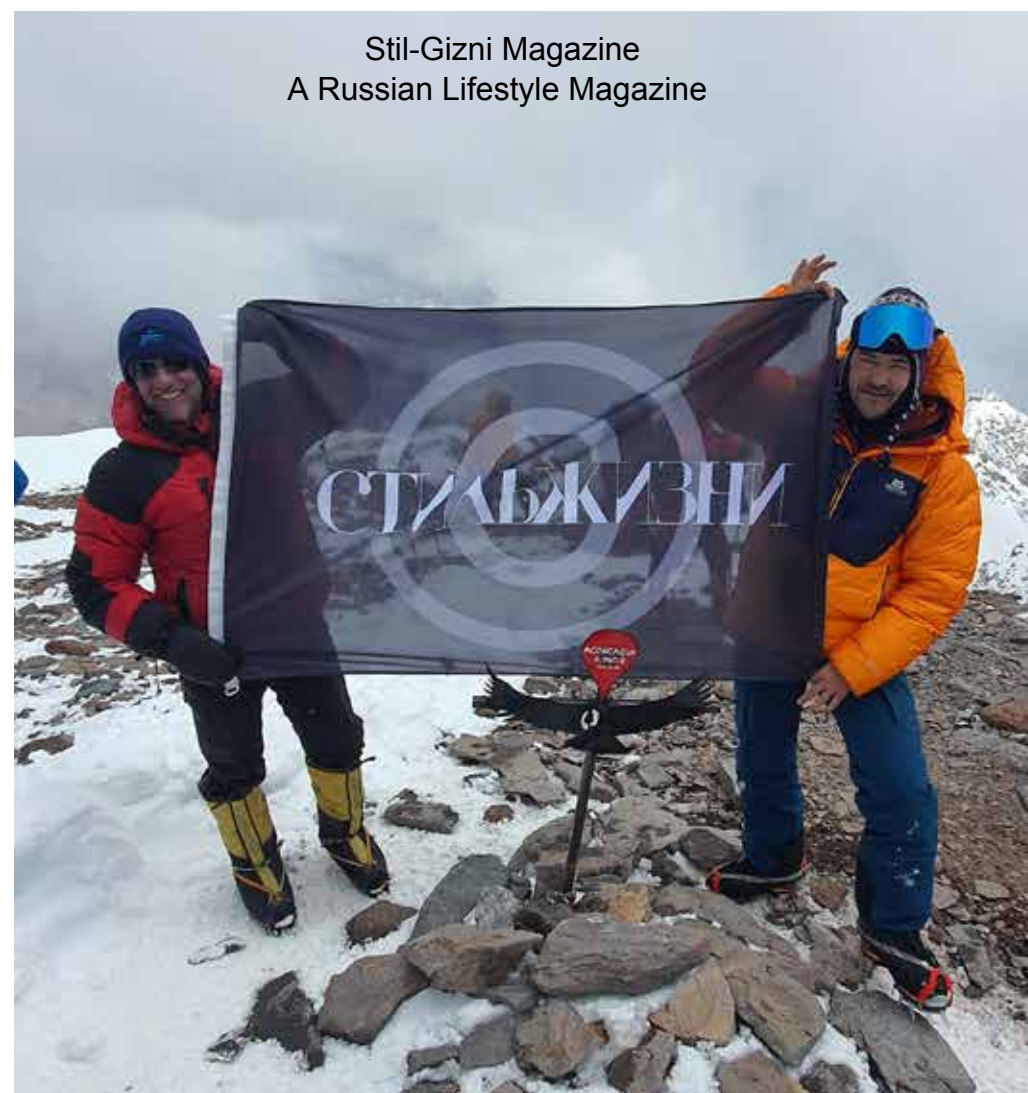
A Cyprus newspaper printed in Russian



A music events company



Stil-Gizni Magazine
A Russian Lifestyle Magazine





Departure from Larnaca Airport, Cyprus, 1.1.2023







In the City of Mendoza





In Mendoza. Crazy Agentinian Pesos





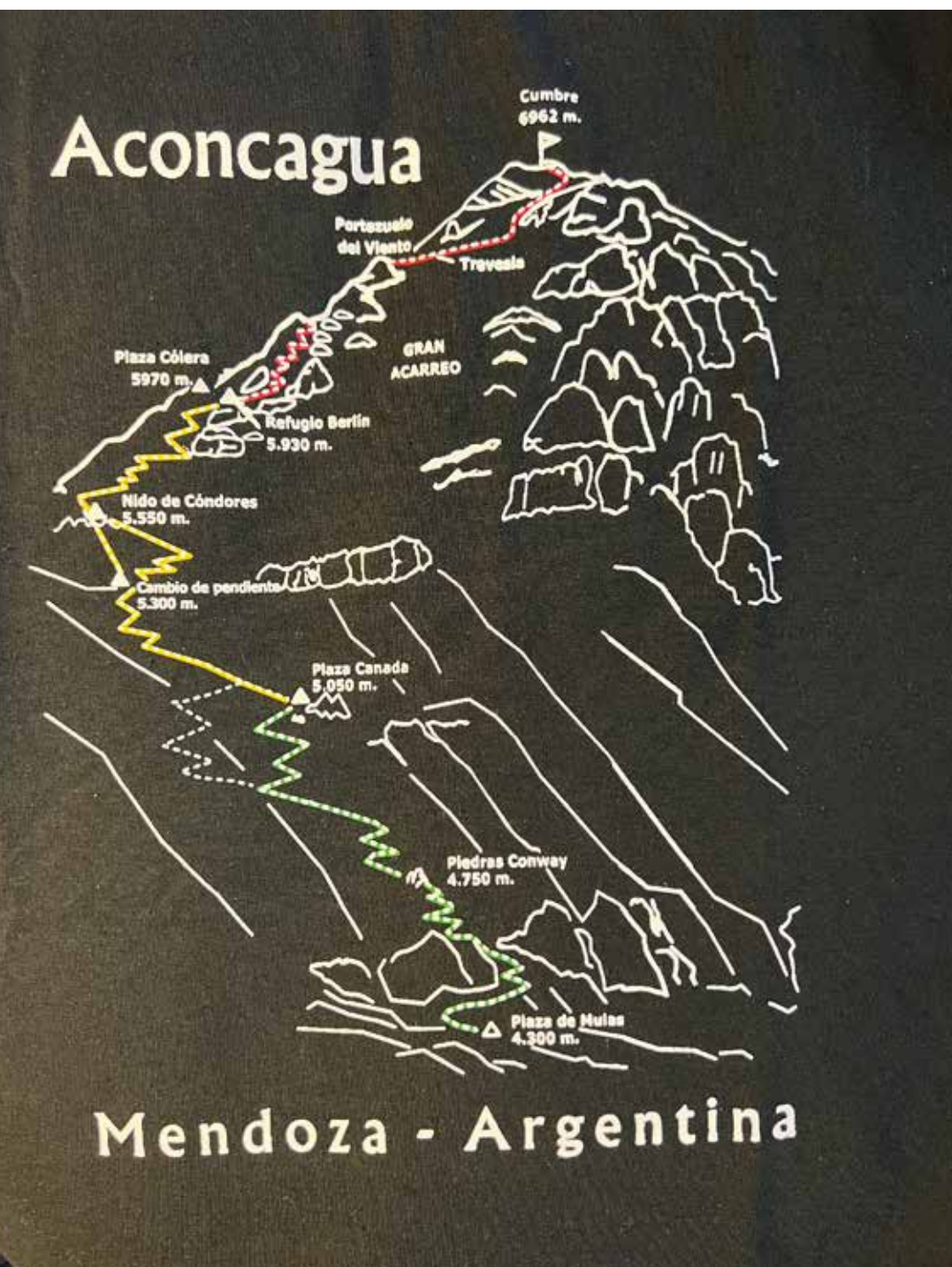
Luxury before hardship. At the Diplomatic Hotel, Mendoza. My 7 Summits Club group of climbers.





Above: inside the Diplomatic Hotel, Mendoza

Below: Aconcagua Vision office (Tour organiser for 7 Summits Club)



A Guinness World Record Attempt for the Highest Altitude Concert on Land

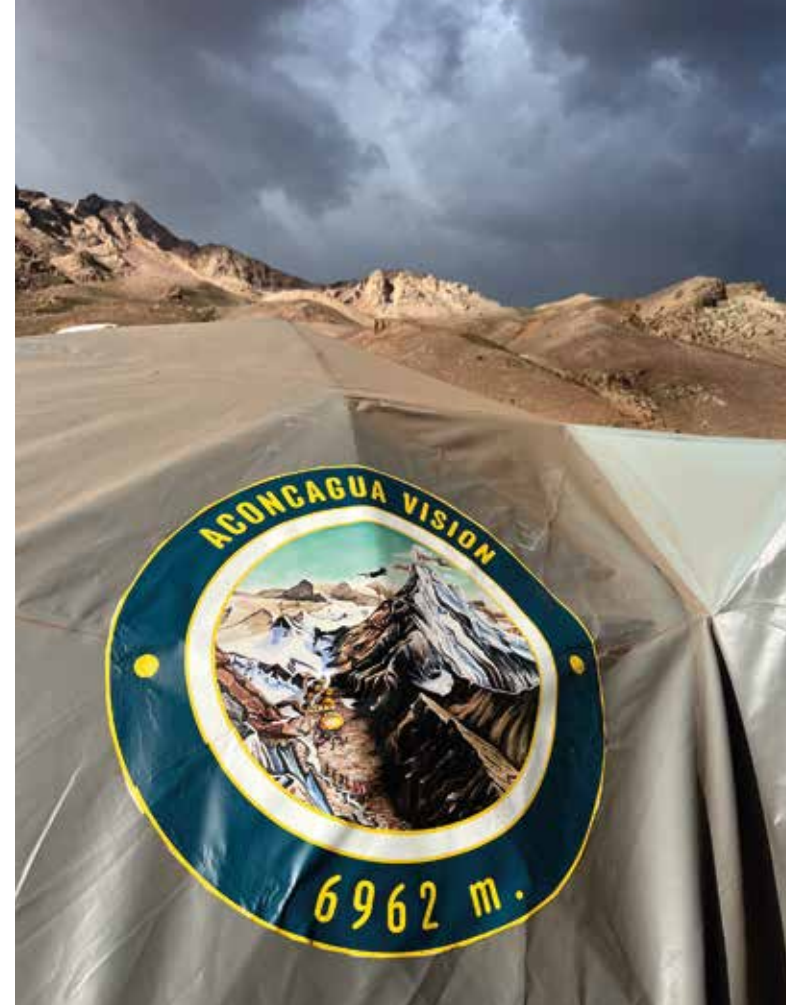


**January 16 or 17, 2023
near the top of Mt Aconcagua.**

**A public concert of music on the Gusli,
played by Tatiana Stupak, selected from
pieces by Handel, Kanaletti & Rebel**

**Ticket enquiries: +357 99140240
Ticket price: ARS\$100 pesos or US\$1**





The camp before entry to Aconcagua Provincial Park

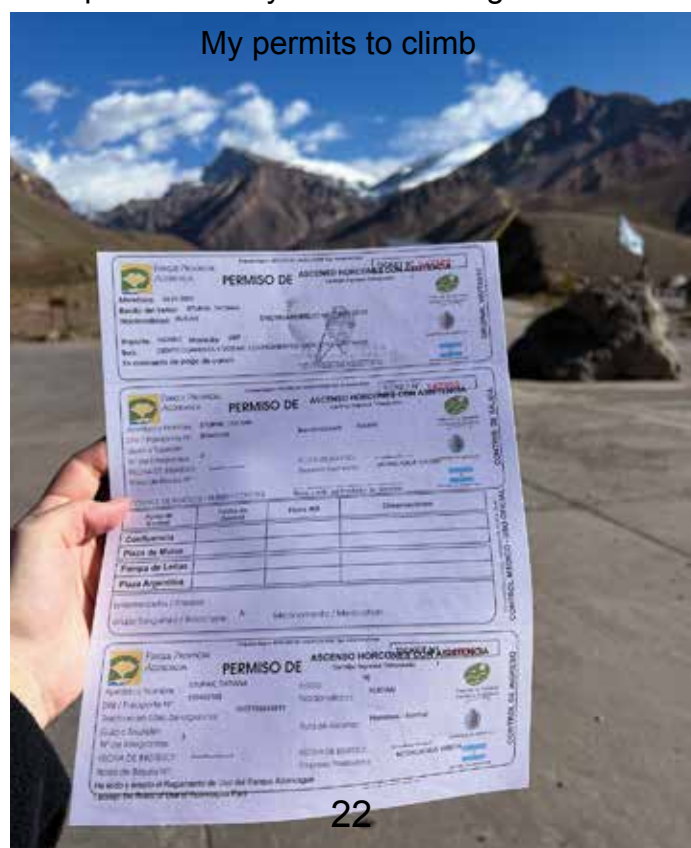




The camp before entry to the Aconcagua Provincial Park



My toilet bags!



My permits to climb



The dining tent



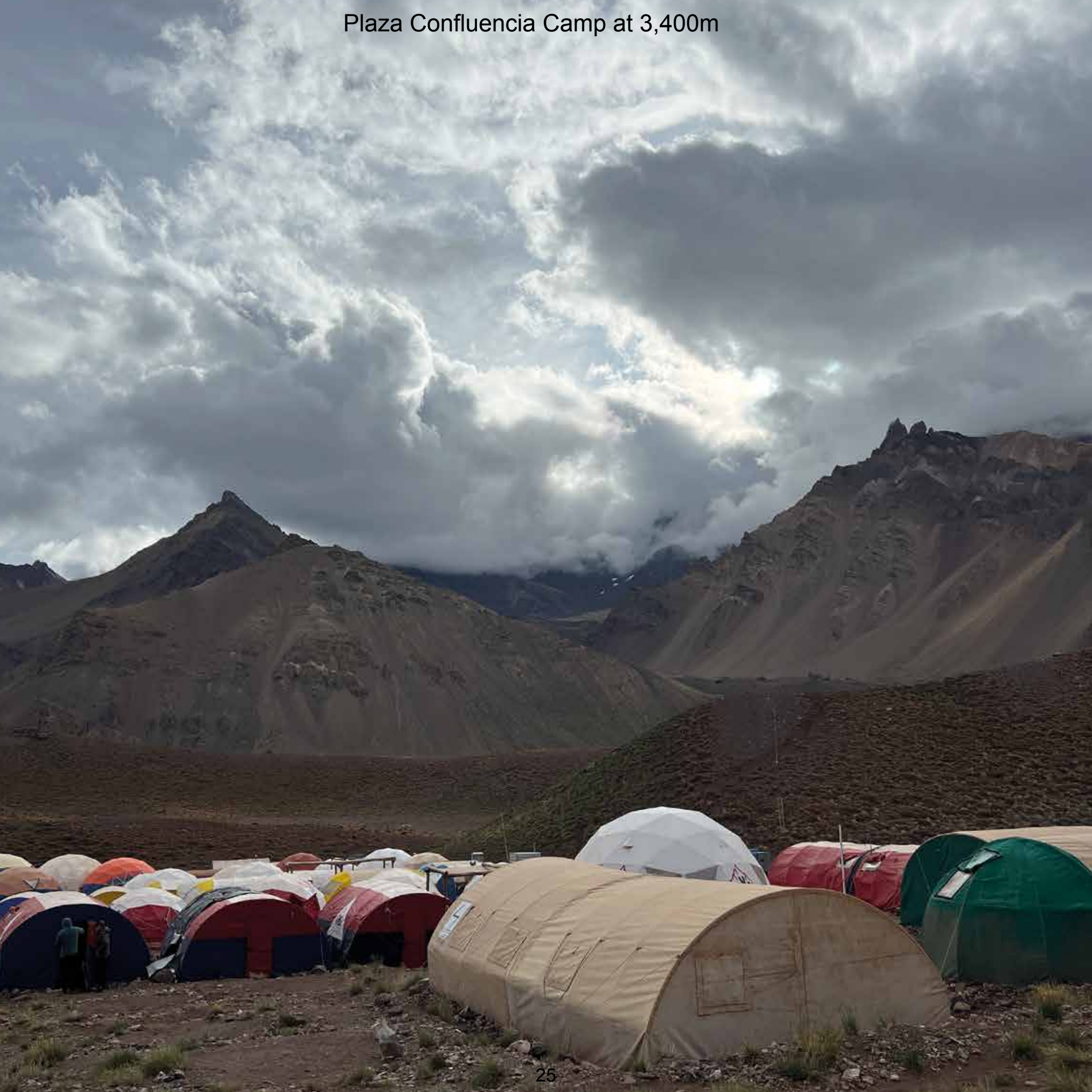


On our way to the next camp: Plaza Confluencia



Path to a glacial lagoon at 2950m
(We did not go to the lagoon)

Plaza Confluencia Camp at 3,400m





Sleeping quarters and dining room. Confluencia Camp (below)





Freezing cold but happy.

Below: in the dining tent



**ACONCAGUA
VISION**

Certified

Change your electronic
device from them to find
available service on mobile device

Smoke
free area

**WE LOVE
WHAT WE DO**

Free Wi-Fi

**WE TAKE CARE THE HIGHEST
MOUNTAIN IN AMERICA**

Broken glass

Trash

Pathological waste

Plastic and can

Paper and cardboard

Organic

PORTEOS

CASH AND CREDIT CARD

P. Mula - Canada	\$180
Canada - Mula de Colombia	\$240
Mula de Colombia - Caba	\$220
Caba - P. Mula	\$220

HELI FLIGHT

CASH AND CREDIT CARD

P. Mula - Micones	\$180
Mula - Micones	\$210

**PRICE PER FLIGHT
YOU CAN SHARE IT**

DRINKS

AND BOTTLED STOPS

Beer	\$5
Coke	\$5
Wine	\$10
T-shirt	\$10
Hoodie	\$20
Buff	\$10







View from Plaza de Mulas Camp





Training near Plaza Confluencia



Mules can carry up to 20kg





On the 10 hour walk from Confluencia Camp to Plaza de Mulas Camp



On the way to Plaza de Mulas Camp





Above: rest point, half way to Mulas Camp





Arrival at Plaza de Mulas Camp (4,250m)





Food at Mulas Camp



Below: My sleeping place

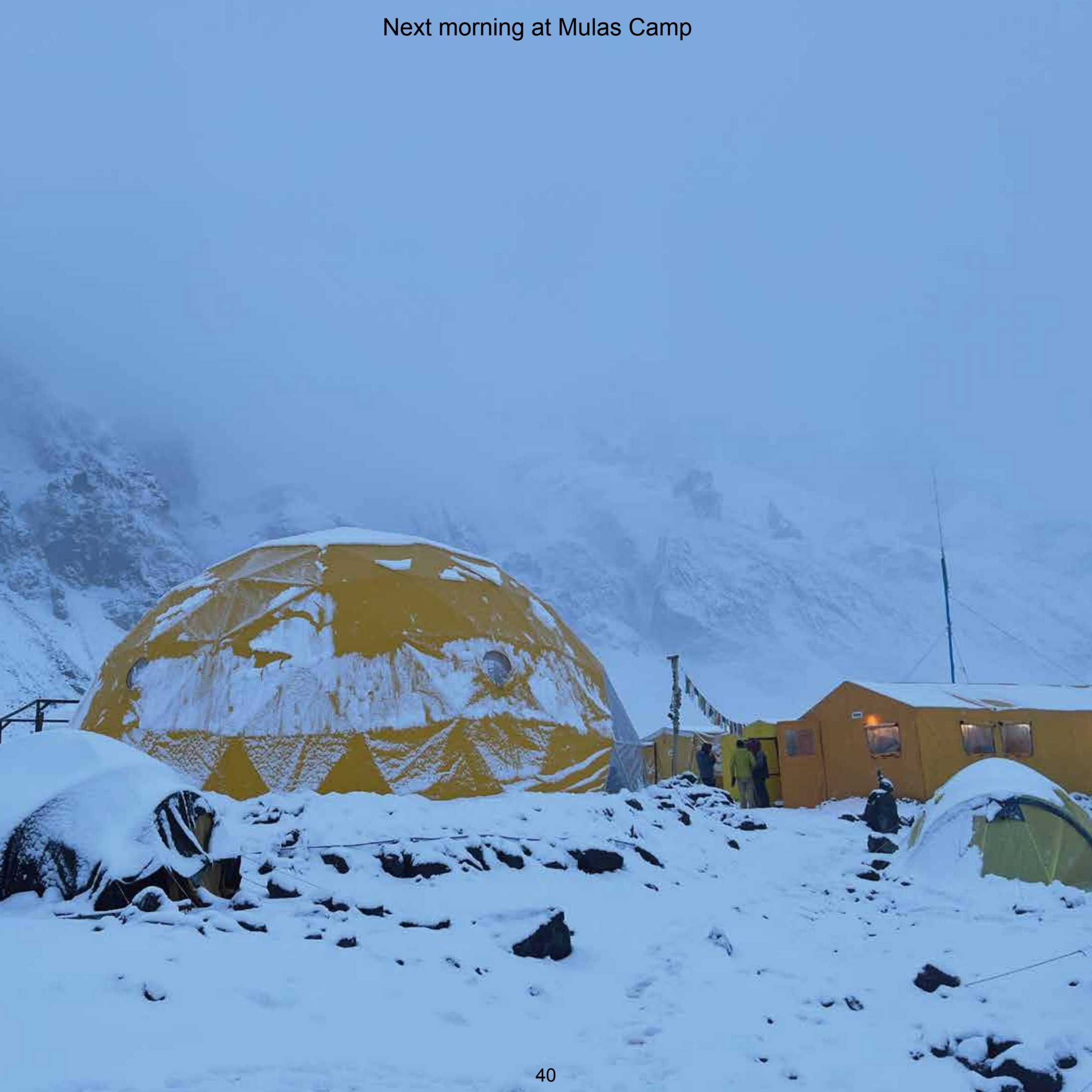






Selling tickets for my Guinness World Record Concert

Next morning at Mulas Camp



Me, surprised in the morning to see such snow



Below: my concert poster on a tent door



Near Plaza de Mulas Camp



A closed-down hotel near Plaza de Mulas





On the way up to the art gallery at Plaza de Mulas



Plaza de Mulas Camp



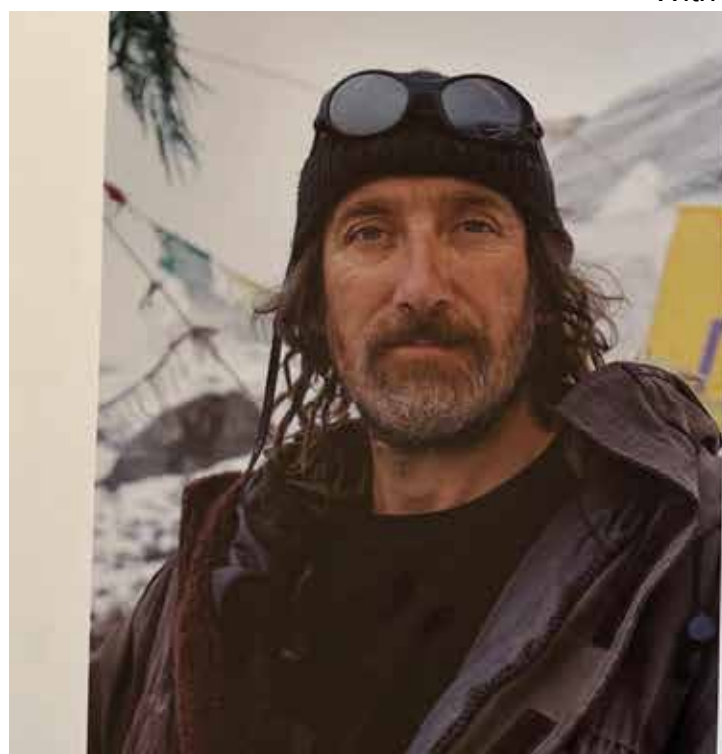


The Nautilus, the Highest Contemporary Art Gallery, at Plaza de Mulas base camp (4,300m). Owned by the artist Miguel Doura





With the artist Miguel Doura in his gallery



Жизнь на высоте Милладо Матвеева

Я рисую с детства, но важнее, я думаю, то, что я всегда жадно вглядывалась в окружающий мир, чтобы запечатлеть яркость осеннего листа, падающую звезду, улыбку или просто услышать молчание... — так говорит о себе Мигель Доура, аргентинский художник, создавший картинную галерею на горе Аконкагуа, на высоте 4300 метров.

Уже больше десяти лет летние месяцы (с ноября до конца февраля) Мигель проводит в базисном альпинистском лагере горы Аконкагуа Пласа-де-Мулас, где находится его картинная галерея Наутилус. Он не раз совершал восхождение на вершину самой высокой горы Южного полушария, и это был для него важный опыт, но подлинной «школой жизни» он считает именно Наутилус — свою высокогорную мастерскую. Здесь он работает — рисует горы, небо, усеянное звездами, облака, слова горы... Здесь же выставляются картины. Посетителей со всего земного шара у него бывает множество. «Каждый год я знакомлюсь

47 с людьми из самых разных стран, принадлежащих самым разным культурам, — говорит

у меня не раз была возможность пообщаться с такими людьми, с которыми „внизу“, в „нормальной жизни“, это было бы весьма затруднительно или вообще невозможно. В Наутилусе я познакомился с председателем Всемирного экономического форума, с астронавтами, политиками, поэтами, известными учеными... У всех нас много общего: нами владеют одни и те же сомнения, одна и та же экзистенциальная тоска... В то же время тот, кто приезжает из Сибири отличается от москвича, житель Аляски не похож на нью-йоркца, японец на итальянца, немец на испанца... Мое общение в Наутилусе напоминает путешествие по миру, но на самом деле это мир проходит через мою галерею».

В палатке Доура всегда много посетителей. Мигель открыт и гостеприимен: он угощает посетителей национальным напитком — мате, охотно общается. Он обладает даром располагать к себе — сияющей улыбкой, исходящим от него теплом, самобытностью облика. Одет он, как и полагается художнику, небрежно:



Café at Mulas Camp





In the café at Mulas Camp



In another café (expensive) at Mulas Camp



**We have a medical
check at each camp,
before going higher**





Above: 100 euros per night for a luxury sleeping tent



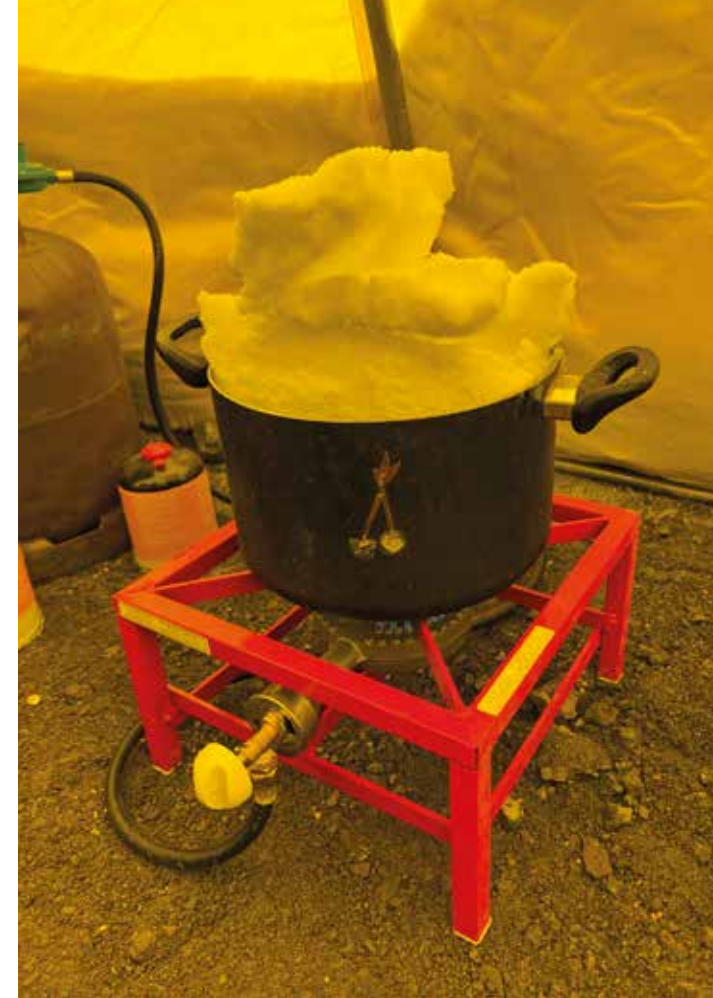
Below: selling more concert tickets



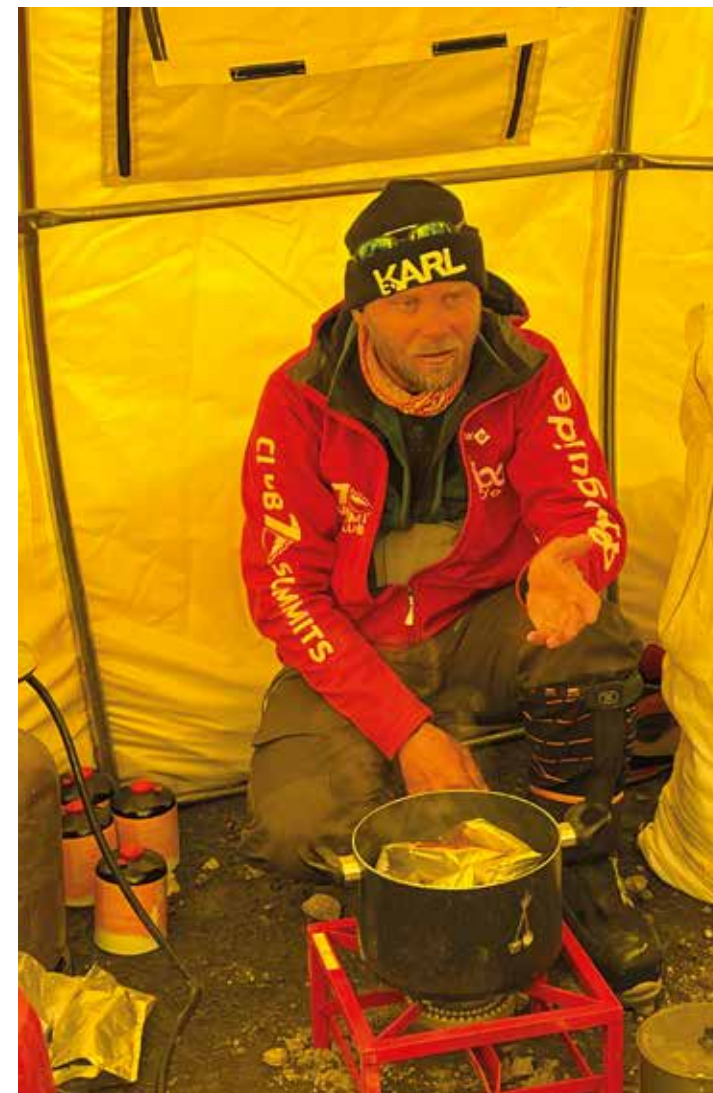
Nido de Condores Camp (5,350m)

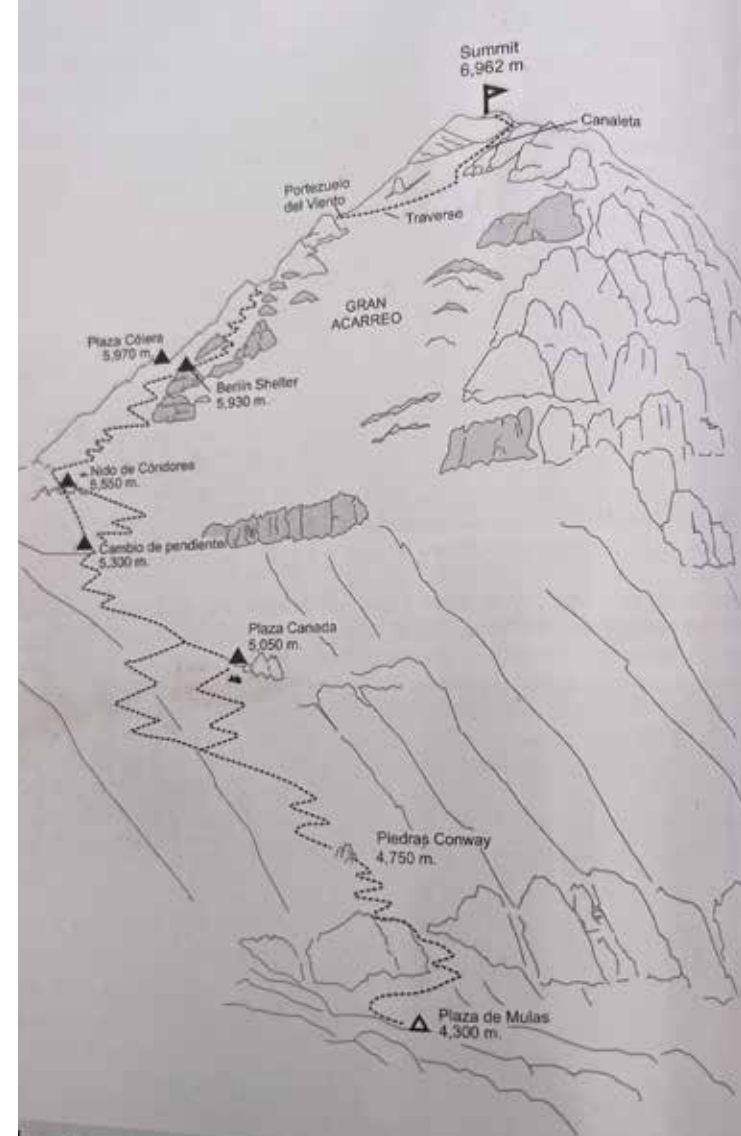


At Nido Camp



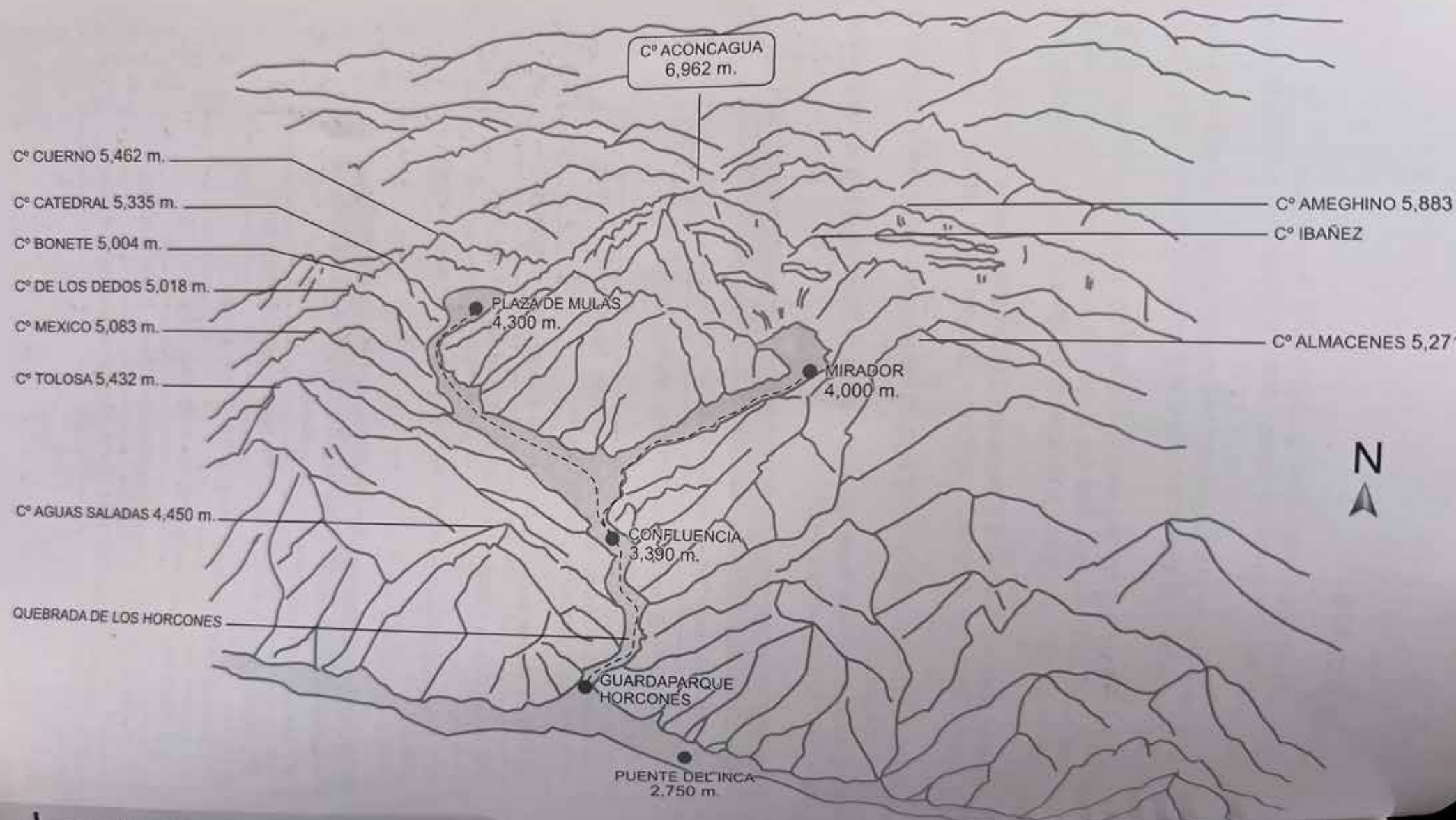
Making water to drink and cook





A woman is posing on a rocky mountain trail. She is wearing a red jacket with "CLIP 7 SUMMITS" and "18000 guides" printed on it, maroon pants, and a red beanie. She is smiling and giving a peace sign. The background shows a vast mountain range with snow-capped peaks under a blue sky with scattered clouds.





At Nido de Condores Camp





At Nido de Condores Camp





View from near the site of my concert

View from near the site of my concert



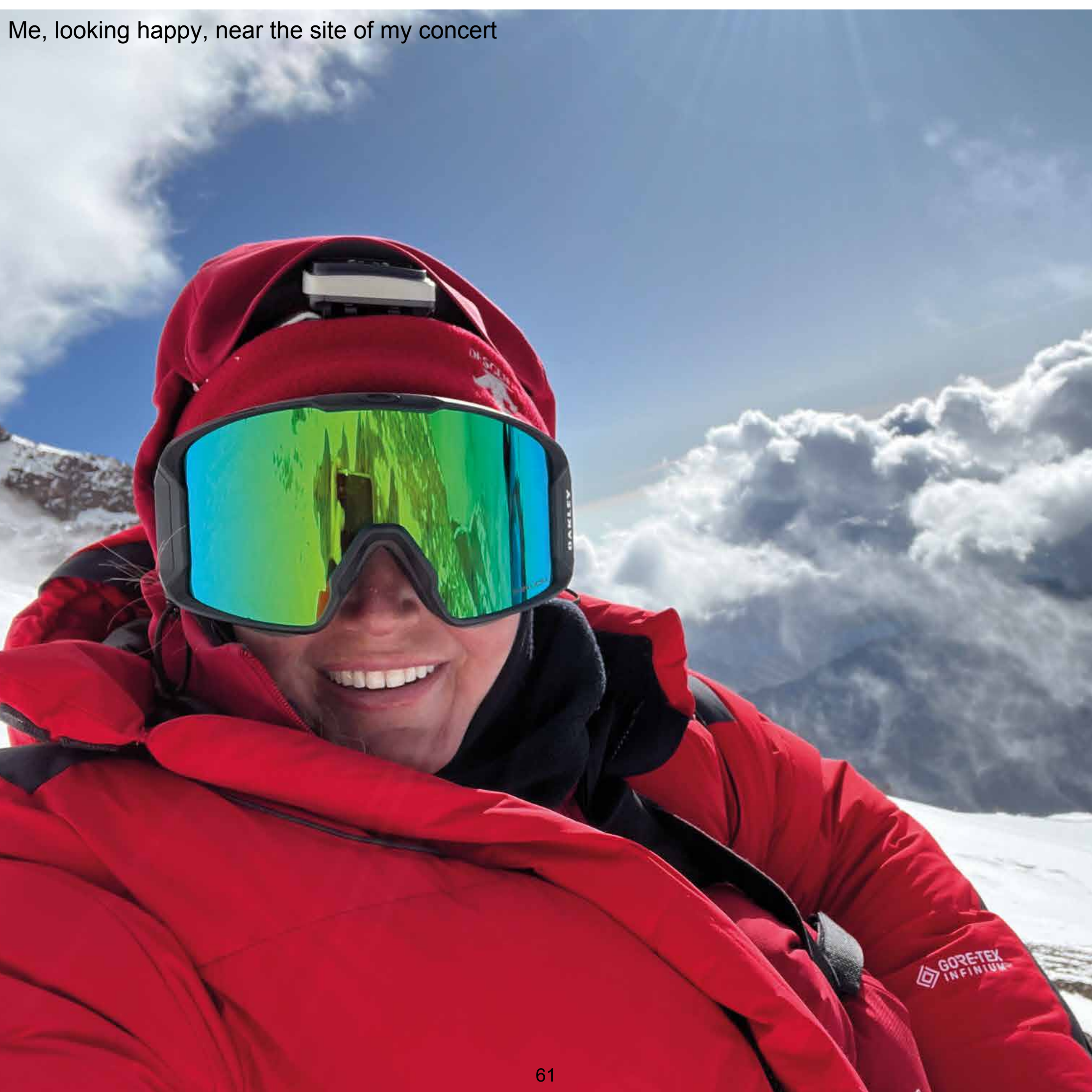
Near the site of my concert



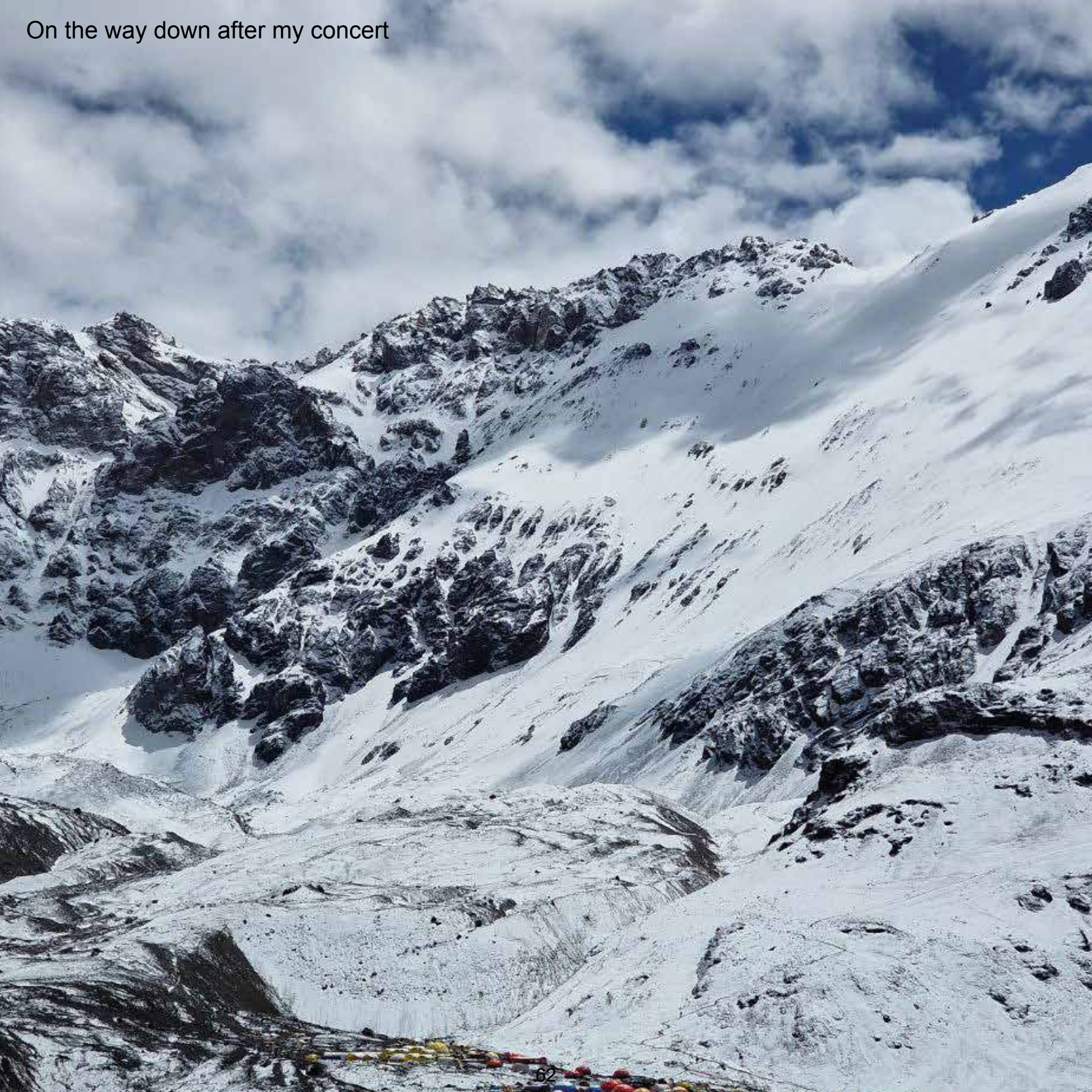
Below: At the summit of Aconcagua, 16 .1.2023



Me, looking happy, near the site of my concert



On the way down after my concert





Me, breaking the world record



Near Colera Camp



Repeating my concert for YouTube, with an amazing view



Sunrise





Training in bad weather between Plaza de Mulas Camp and Nido de Condores Camp



My certificate & medal for climbing Mt. Aconcagua





I took a helicopter from Mulas Camp down to the park entrance, to give me time to visit Buenos Aires





Above: On the steps of the closed hotel

Below: Group photo near Plaza Confluencia





Near the entrance to Aconcagua Provincial Park

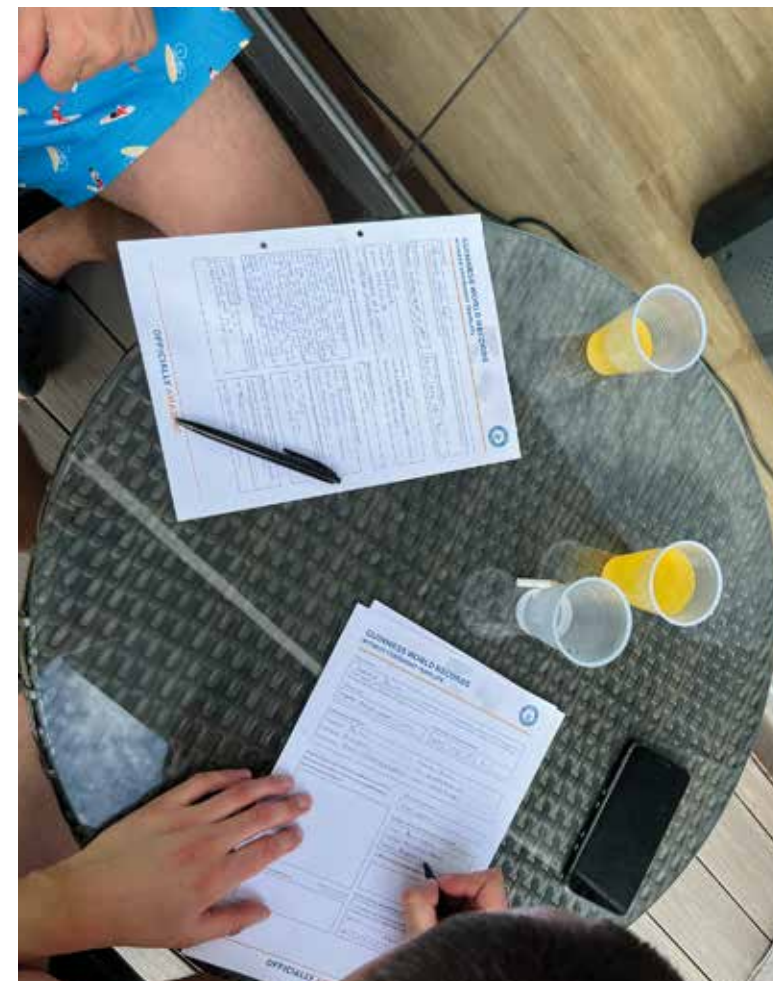


Preparing to fly to Buenos Aires for sight-seeing





Statements by my witnesses for Guinness World Records



Statements by my witnesses for GWR



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS WITNESS STATEMENT TEMPLATE	
1) Declaration: <u>ALEXANDR MERZLIKIN</u> declare that I am not associated with, or related to, the record organizers or participants, nor have anything to gain from the final outcome of the attempt. Therefore I have acted as a witness of the Guinness World Records™ attempt for the record:	
Record Title: <u>HIGHEST ALTITUDE CONCERT IN LAND</u>	Application Reference Number: <u>2005 1615 1811 400</u>
2) My contact details are: First Name: <u>ALEXANDR</u> Nationality: <u>RUSSIA</u> Last Name: <u>MERZLIKIN</u> Email: <u>A.A.MERZLIKIN@GMAIL.COM</u> Organisation: <u>MEMBER OF A VERSHIN7 CLIMBING EXPEDITION</u> Telephone: <u>+7999 013 0686</u>	
3) What did you see / measure / evaluate as a witness? Please provide details of all the record guidelines you witnessed being followed <u>I was present as one of the people watching. I saw the specialist witness (a mountain guide named Andrei Berezin) take out the Garmin Altimeter / GPS device which he had on his person and take measurements of the altitude and GPS co-ordinates. I saw the figures displayed on the screen of the Garmin device and noted altitude / also the screen of the device being photographed and filmed. I heard and saw Marianna Stupak played live music programme on her guitar for more than 15 minutes; she played three pieces by Handel, Hummel and Beethoven, as stated on my concert ticket with a short pause after the first and second pieces.</u>	
4) My field of expertise is: (Reason for witnessing the record attempt) <u>I was present as a mountaineer and as a ticket-holder at the concert</u>	
5) Final measurement: <u>6700 metres</u>	
6) Where did the record attempt take place? Venue: <u>Acancagua</u> City/Town: <u>Acancagua</u> <u>Moravia</u> Country: <u>Argentina</u>	
7) When were you present at the record attempt? (Include dates and times) <u>16.01.2023</u> <u>around 5 p.m.</u> <u>concert was around 20 min.</u>	
8) This witness statement was completed by: I am willing to be contacted by Guinness World Records to discuss any details regarding this record claim. Sign here: _____ (All signatures must be handwritten) Date: <u>17/01/2023</u> (dd/mm/yyyy)	



Shopping in Mendoza



Fountain in Mendoza



Cemetery in Buenos Aires



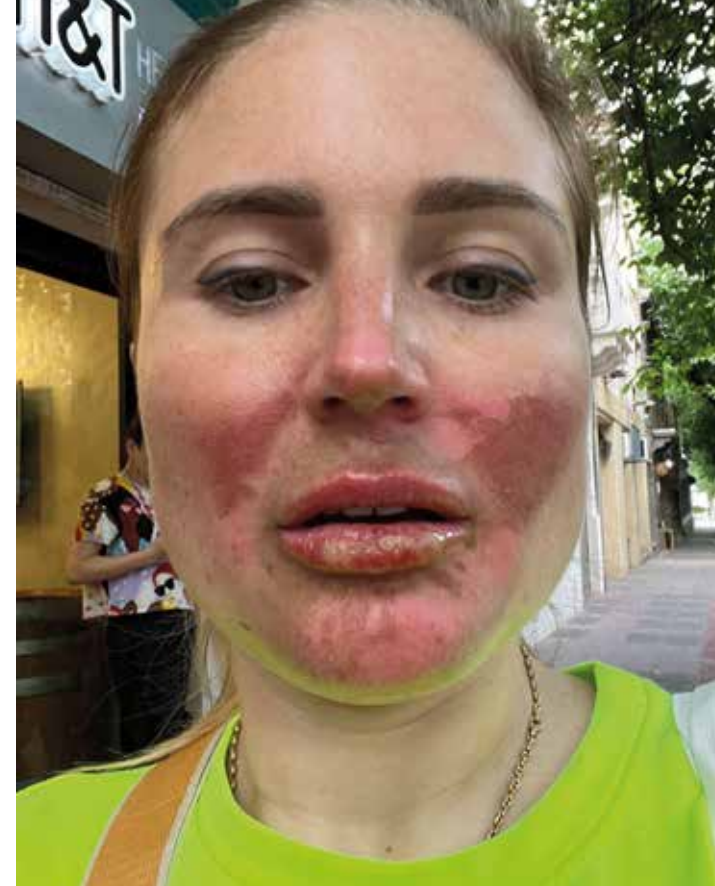


With my climbing group at a restaurant in Mendoza





In Mendoza



Damage from sun, cold and wind





In Buenos Aires Cemetery



Sight-seeing in Buenos Aires



Between two wax men



**At a press conference in Limassol
after my return from Argentina**





The flight home from Athens to Larnaca



David Pentecost at Larnaca Airport
(He handled all contacts with Guinness World Records for me)



In Athens before returning home



Welcome home party at Larnaca Airport, 23 January 2023

APPENDIX

List of YouTube Links about the Mt. Aconcagua Climb

TV and Radio broadcasts after the concert.

24.1.2023. 7 minute Interview in Greek on Sigma TV: https://youtu.be/XQx5pRHkB_I

25.1.2023. 22 minute interview in Russian on Russian Radio: <https://youtu.be/d9rx2ks2BvU>

2.2.2023. 11 minute interview in Greek on Alpha TV: <https://youtu.be/uOE0cTV0mts>

2.2.2023. 9 minute interview in Greek on Antenna 1 TV: <https://youtu.be/2lkbUdYJXjQ>

2.2.2023. 18 minute interview in Greek on CyBC RIK 1 Radio: <https://youtu.be/6rjm-H7mKbI>

6.2.2023. 21 minute interview in Greek on Lemosos TV: <https://youtu.be/l9beEBx-XSM>

Videos relevant to the climb to the concert site on Mt. Aconcagua, and preparation for the climb.

Mountaineering aspects of the attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the highest concert:

https://youtu.be/jTk6_j-Kjx0

Regular gym training in Cyprus before travelling to Argentina to try to break the Guinness world record:

https://youtu.be/t6Y_PxJnpWc

TV broadcasts before the concert

29.9.2022. Sigma TV evening news item in Greek; 70 seconds

Tatiana Stupak talking about training in Iran for a new Guinness World Record in January 2023 on Mt. Aconcagua:

https://youtu.be/Vz_pSM-1L-U

20.10.2022. RIK 1 TV as a guest on 'ΕΜΕΙΣ ΚΙ Ο ΚΟΣΜΟΣ ΜΑΣ'. In Greek. 28 minutes.

Tatiana Stupak interviewed about her attempt at a Guinness World Record, and her many achievements, including mountaineering, and as a musician:

<https://youtu.be/w9XEdx9b1Lg>

15.12.2022. On Alpha TV. In Greek. 7 minutes.

Interview with Tatiana Stupak on her attempt at a Guinness World Record:

<https://youtu.be/Tw82AgczHfI>

